ANNUAL REPORT on the health of SHIRLEY and FREEMANTLE for the year ending December 31 1894.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health of the District of SHIRLEY and FREEMANTLE for the year ending December 31, 1894. giving the vital statistics and tables required by the Local Government Board and a summary of the work done by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances.

Taking the mean population as is usual for such purposes, for the year as the estimated figures arrived at when computing the returns for Midsummer 1894 we find that the population of SHIRLEY is 10,376 and that of FREEMANTLE 6,437.

In SHIRLEY there were 123 deaths which on the above estimated population, give a mortality of 11.85 per 1,000 living.

37 died under one year of age. 14 between one and five years. 5 between five and twentyfive years. 33 between twentyfive and sixtyfive years.. 34 at sixtyfive years and over.

2 deaths occurred from Diphtheria. 3 from Measles. 6 from Cancer. 3 from Diarrhoea. 6 from Influenza. 8 from Whooping cough. 12 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia. 6 from Heart Disease. 14 from Phthisis and Tubercular Disease. 8 from Premature Birth and Inherent Debility. 54 from other causes. There were 4 inquests.

The Births registered numbered 274---151 males and 123 females---, giving a birth rate of 26.4 per 1,000. The births exceed the deaths by 151, shewing the natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths. In the previous year the death rate was 13.9 per 1,000 the birth rate was 23.5, and the increase of population was 99.

In FREEMANTLE there were 85 deaths, giving a death rate of 13.2 per 1,000 calculated on the above estimated population. 26 died under one year of age. 5 died between one and five years. 3 between five and twentyfive years. 26 betweenthe ages of twentyfive and sixtyfive and 25 at sixtyfive years and over.

One died from Puerperal fever. One died from Diarrhoea. One died from Influenza. 5 died from Whooping cough. 12 died from Bonchitis ans Pneumonia. 16 died from Phthisis and Tubercular Diseases. 8 died from Premature Birth or Inherent Debility. 12 died from Heart Disease. 4 died from Cancer. 24 from other causes. One was the occasion of an inquest.

The Births numbered 217, namely 109 males and 108 females; giving a birth rate of 33.7 per 1,000. The births exceed the deaths by 132 shewing the natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths. In 1893 the similar increase was 79, and the death rate 13.95 the birth rate being 25.67 per 1,000.

It will be seen that in both SHIRLEY and FREEMANTLE the statistics of 1894 are more favourable than those of 1893.
The statistics of the combined District come out as follows. During the past year the Deaths numbered 208, and the death rate was 12.37 The Births numbered 491, and the birth rate was 29.2 per 1,000.
23 deaths occurred from zymotic disease, giving a zymotic death rate of 1.38 per 1,000 living.
63 children died under one year of age, which figures calculated on the total number of births---491---give an infantile mortality rate of 128.3 per 1,000 of births, or in other words out of evesy 1,000 children born, 128.3 died during the first year of their life.
Table "A" shows the number of deaths and the chief diseases causing them. Comparing the number of deaths from the chief diseases with those of the previous year, the result for the united District is as follows Those of the zymotic class were 23 against 23, viz- Measles, 3 against 6 last year. Whooping cough, 13 against 0. Croup 0 against 1. Small-pox 0 against 1. Scarlatina 0 against 1. Typhoid fever 0 against 2. Erysipelas 0 against 1. Diarrhoea 4 against 4. Puerperal fever 1 against 1. Diphtheria 2 against 1.
Of the constitutional diseases Phthisis caused with its allied Tubercular diseases 22 deaths against 17. Bronchitis; Pneumonia and inflammatory diseases of the chest caused 38 deaths against 44. Heart Disease caused 13 deaths against 20.
Table "B" relates to population births and new cases of infectious sickness. Information about the latter is arrived at through the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. Under it 74 Certificates have been sent in against 129 Certificates sent in during the previous year 41 related to Scarlatina or Scarlet fever. 10 related to Diphtheria. 2 related to Typhoid fever. 2 related to Puerperal fever. 19 related to Erysipelas.
The case mortality of the scarlatina cases was 0.00 per cent, as no one case has died. That of Diphtheria has been 20 per cent or one in 5. That of Puerperal fever has been 50 per cent, or one in two; the case mortality of the disease is usually very high. That of Typhoid fever has been 0.00 per cent. That of Erysipelas has been 0.00 per cent.
For comparative statistics we may refer to the published case mortality of the Metropolitan Asylums board for the year 1893 which amounts to 30.42 per cent of cases attacked by Diphtheria. On the one hand it is hardly fair to compare such small figures with such large ones; on the other there exists the element of doubt as to whether the true Diphtheritic poison was present in every instance. I hope in connection with this to avail myself of the assistance of the Local Government Board who have arranged with Dr KLEIN to conduct a proper Bacteriological examination of any material sent from a case by a Medical Officer with the view of pronouncing whether the case be genuine Diphtheria or not.

Two of the cases of Diphtheria were traced to a probable origin from Millbrook, where the disease has been somewhat prevalent during the late autumn and early winter. The channel was probably through the meeting ground of the Wimpson school at which the first of the cases attacked attended. It is a well known fact that during the presence of an epidemic of Diphtheria there are always a considerable number of slighter cases of sore throat which are really the infection in a mild form and which attending school help to spread it among others. These cases caused the whole mortality during the year from that source. The other cases were scattered throughout the District and were of a generally mild character. Two of these cases were traced to local insanitary conditions , which were at once rectified.

Two cases of Typhoid fever were notified. Each proved to be mild. One case was contracted at sea, and therefore the District cannot be blamed for it; the other which proved to arise from a faulty condition of the joints of the house drains was met with a rectification of the defects. As Typhoid fever is the disease "par excellence" of faulty sanitation it follows that the absence of such disease in a large district such as SHIRLEY and FREEMANTLE, or its relative absence as has been shewn by the incidence being only 1in 8,500 is the best possible proof of the district being in a satisfactory condition.

Small-pox was absent throughout the whole year.

Scarlatina of an exceedingly mild form has been present during the Michaelmas and December quarters. At the end of the year it had practically subsided. In all 41 cases were notified as against 51 during the previous year. Every house has been carefully visited and after the termination of the case the requisite disinfection has been performed. I am inclined to think that the outbreak arose from a source or sources within the Borough, where it would be most likely to have escaped notice through the notification being less efficient. I have traced two cases passing more by re-infection from this direction.

In connection with the appearance and at first rapid spread of the infection in SHIRLEY WARREN I advised the closing of the small elementary school in Coxford, with the result that at the end of a fortnight the disease had distinctly abated. Mr SHIRLEY MURPHY the Medical Officer of Health to the London County Council has shewn conclusively that the closing of schools is of great value in checking an epidemic. I further in connection with the epidemic in other parts of the district arranged with the superintendents of the other schools to send home and notify me of any case of rash or suspicious throat occurring in connection with any of the schools. I have had lists sent to me and have visited and investigated any doubtful case.

Erysipelas has been notified in 19 cases with one death. The majority of the cases have been of a very mild character and have arisen either from an injury or the effects of a chill. I have visited and investigated every instance. The one case in question where death occurred took place in the Southampton Infirmary and therefore does not appear in the District rates.

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Influenza appeared during the winter and spring of the year. During the first quarter of the year it caused 4 deaths; during the other quarters three deaths, or one in each quarter. The epidemic which was very general in extent appeared to affect all parts of the district equally and seemed to differ from the previous epidemics of the disease in its generally lighter character; its affecting the throat, nose, and ears of the patients, and the lessened proportion of secondary chest complication. The complaint has reappeared during the present winter but in a still lighter form than before. I have not observed such high teperatures in connection with the cases, nor such subsequent depression. On the whole I think that as far as this district is concerned, we may take it as granted that the disease is taking a milder form with each separate incidence. Certainly the duration of each case is distinctly shorter. As there is no means of arriving at the exact number of cases attacked the case mortality cannot be ascertained. I have observed in a small number of cases of undoubted Influenza a rash of a scarlatiniform character not followed by desquamation. I am of opinion that two if not more of the cases which were notified as scarlatina were in reality influenza, as on examination I discovered other undoubted cases of ~~infuenza~~ influenza existed in the houses at the same time.
Puerperal fever was reported in two instances. One of the reported cases died. The proper sanitary precautions were taken. The first case was reported on the 11th of June and the second on the 4th of August. Both appeared to proceed from still-born children and consequent premature labour. No insanitary conditions likely to have caused it were discovered, but the same nurse attended both cases. She may possibly have taken the infection from one to the other, but as two months intervened there does not seem to be any certainty. She was warned not to take any further cases without special permission.
Whooping cough has been very prevalent during the second quarter of the year. It then caused 7 deaths. In all it caused 13 deaths. On the 5th of April I visited all the Elementary schools, and arranged with the superintendent: to watch for and send home any case with suspicious cough.
Measles was prevalent during the summer and caused 3 deaths. The disease was mostly of a mild character. A few isolated cases have remained appearing in different parts of the district throughout the autumn. Phthisis caused 20 deaths, and the allied Tubercular disease in children caused 10 deaths. The latter must often be helped in its course by improper feeding. Relatively to the size of the district and population FREEMANTLE has a larger incidence of Phthisis than SHIRLEY, the figures with Tubercular disease included being FREEMANTLE death rate from these causes 2.47 per 1,000. and SHIRLEY 1.35; FREEMANTLE is rather lower and the surface water relatively higher.
Diarrhoea caused 4 deaths. One was in the first quarter, one in second, two in third, and one in last. Possibly the cold and wet summer reduced the autumn mortality from this source. The Local Government Board left it to the discretion of the Authority to procure the notification or not of the disease when occuring in an epidemic form. The

SHIRLEY and FREEMANTLE Authority resolved to watch for the appearance of the disease in an epidemic form before having recourse to notification and as such did not appear no action was taken..

The closing of schools.

This was only had recourse to in two instances and those affected a very small proportion of the total number of children. In consequence of the appearance of the epidemic of scarlatina in SHIRLEY WARREN the Infants Day and Sunday schools were closed for a fortnight with good results. 80 children received instruction here. This was done on the 1st of September.

On the 10th of November a small private school in Fitzhugh was closed in consequence of scarlatina affecting four of the pupils.

The Royal Mail S.S.TAMAR on her return voyage from South America had small-pox on board on May 31st. Six of her crew returned to their homes in the District. I visited in each case and directed the proper disinfection and fumigation of all clothes likely to spread the infection.

On the 17th of September she again returned to the port with the infection of small-pox. On this occasion 14 of her crew returned to the District. The same precautions were taken as before.

Isolation Hospital The question has been discussed by the Authority and they are now in course of treaty for a suitable site on which to erect one if required.

Two workshops have been visited in consequence of reports by the Factory Inspector as to their being overcrowded. I have in each case arranged for an abatement of the nuisance by the diminution of the staff employed. He has also reported one bakehouse as requiring lime-washing and repair and the required work has been done.

Milk Supply. The first cases of Scarlatina appearing in SHIRLEY WARREN were spread through the milk supply becoming contaminated. Prompt measures were taken to prevent further spread through this channel. A large Dairy in Hill Lane has at my request put on the South Hants water for the purpose of cleaning their utensils.

There appears to be very little disease amongst the cows.

I have examined one specimen of suspicious fish, but as it was not bad enough to be absolutely condemned the vendor was cautioned.

WATER During the past year the South Hants Water Company has laid on a supply to 99 fresh houses, and in addition to that there are 95 fresh houses which will take the supply. The Company has resolved in answer to the request of the Autority to extend their mains to SHIRLEY WARREN and COXFORD, and the work will be commenced in the spring as soon as the weather permits. This will prove of great advantage to the inhabitants, as many of the surface wells are indifferent or bad. In all 3086 houses now take in the South Hants water.

I have analysed 25 samples of drinking water of which 15 have been found indifferent or bad. The majority of these were in SHIRLEY WARREN The house to house inspection has been proceeding, but in consequence of no additional Inspector having been appointed this year and the Inspector having other more urgent calls on his time it has not yet

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been quite finished. It will be completed and a proper record kept of the conditions found year by year.
11 dirty and dilapidated houses have been put into repair.
12 cases of overcrowding have been abated.
The Inspector has inspected 4,170 houses, and paid special visits to 612. He has written in 38 cases where special explanations were required.

He has given verbal notice in 195 cases, and sent written notice in 138.
3 Cesspools have been emptied. 6 Privies have been emptied.
30 houses have been drained. 27 Blocked drains have been cleared.
23 drains have been tested to discover the exact cause of defects which have in every case been made good. 18 Heaps of manure have been removed. 31 houses have been disinfected. 2 Dirty Urinals have been cleansed. 2 Nuisances arising from the keeping of pigs have been abated. 15 Dirty and cracked closet pans have been cleansed or removed. 12 Defective Traps have been made good. One nuisance arising from fowls has been abated. Also one nuisance arising from a dead horse. All the Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Milk-shops, and Dairies have been visited periodically.
One summons has been taken out for a non-abatement of a nuisance in Kent Road, FREEMANTLE; and as the result costs and a fine were imposed The nuisance was abated.

I have had a special inspection made of the poorest parts of both SHIPLEY and FREEMANTLE with the view of ascertaining the population to the acre. The result has been 88.2 per acre. The streets from which the statistics have been taken have been Pound and Oxford Streets SHIPLEY and Russell and Bellona Terraces and Waverley Road FREEMANTLE.

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